

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 /040 W
-----041237Z 021247 /14

O R 041200Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4340
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STATE FOR ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A

LA PAZ - THE CATHOLIC DAILY "PRESENCIA" SAYS TODAY (THURSDAY, 3 MARCH) IN ITS EDITORIAL ENTITLED "DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS" THAT, IN THE CASE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CITIZENS IN PRISON FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING OR POSSESSION, NONE OF THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN VIOLATED, "NOR HAS THERE EVEN BEEN DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE PRISONERS, FOR THE VERY REASON THAT THEY ARE FOREIGNERS".

"WE BEGIN BY RECOGNIZING - THE EDITORIAL STATES - THAT THERE ARE THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOLIVIA AND THE SITUATION OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS UNDER DETENTION. BUT NO ONE UP TO THIS MOMENT, HAS ARRIVED AT THE CONCLUSION THAT THE LAWFUL ARREST OF PERPETRATORS OF CRIMES HAVING TO DO WITH NARCOTICS OUGHT TO BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. THE MOST THAT HAS BEEN SAID, IN THE VERY SAME UNITED STATES, BY PRESTIGIOUS PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS, IS THAT THE LEGAL SANCTIONS ARE EXTREMELY SEVERE AND THAT THE JUDICIARY IS EXTREMELY SLOW IN METEING OUT SENTENCES.

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BOTH ASSERTIONS CONTAIN A GREAT DEAL OF TRUTH, BUT OUGHT NOT BE CONSIDERED AS THOUGH IT INCLUDED EITHER AN EXPRESS OR TACIT CONDEMNATION OF BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES FOR VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS".

PRESENCIA CONTINUES:
"THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE IS SLOW, AND FOR THAT

REASON SENTENCE HAS NOT BEEN HANDED DOWN. IT IS LAMENTABLE THAT THIS
OCCURS, BUT
IT IS THE SAME FOR EVERYONE WHETHER BOLIVIAN OR FOREIGNER. IT
IS ALSO LAMENTABLE THAT BOTH TRAFFICKERS AND USERS ARE SIMILARLY
DETAINED SINCE, AT TIMES, THESE LATTER ARE MORE VICTIMS THAN
CRIMINALS. BUT EVERYONE RECEIVES JUSTICE ACCORDING TO OUR
LAW; THEY CAN DEFEND THEMSELVES BEFORE IMPARTIAL JURIES,
AT PUBLIC TRIALS". ENDIT.

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Message Attributes

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